

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



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Contact: Jaime Cochran, U.S. Marshals Service

(614) 774-1586

Fred Alverson, U.S. Attorney's Office

(614) 469-5715

“OPERATION FALCON III” FUELED BY ADAM WALSH ACT ROUNDS UP THOUSANDS OF FUGITIVES NATIONWIDE”

Dayton, Ohio – Deputy United States Marshals teamed up with thousands of fellow federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to conduct the largest ever round up of fugitive sex-offenders and wanted gang members. Dubbed “Operation FALCON III” (Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally), Deputy Marshals and their fellow task force members arrested 10,773 felony fugitives. This number includes 1,659 sex offenders and 364 documented gang members.

James M. Wahlrab, U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio, headed the local task force for the district. “It is imperative that we continue to work together with our state and local counterparts to ensure that violent criminals and sexual predators are taken off the streets and kept off. With the help of the U.S. Attorney and the collaboration of partnering agencies, these arrests highlight our cooperation in the ongoing effort to establish safer communities for residents in the Miami Valley region.”

Honing in on sexual predators and fugitive gang members, Operation FALCON III’s success comes on the heels of the “Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act,” which was signed into law by President Bush on July 27, 2006. The Act makes it a federal felony, punishable by up to ten years imprisonment, for convicted sex offenders who fail to register and who travel in interstate or foreign commerce. The U.S. Marshals Service was designated by the Act as the agency to lead the national effort to track down and arrest these fugitive felons.

U.S. Attorney **Gregory G. Lockhart** for the Southern District of Ohio, added, “As U.S. Attorney, our role is to ensure that people are called to justice for the crimes they have committed. The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act and the results of Operation FALCON III will help us achieve that goal.”

In the Miami Valley region, Operation FALCON III participants cleared 174 active warrants and made 107 physical arrests. Some of the significant arrests included:

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On 10/22/2006, members of the FALCON III task force went to Rose Street in the city of Springfield, Ohio, looking for Tony TRACY. TRACY was wanted by local authorities for assault on a police officer, robbery and burglary. Upon attempting to enter the residence, the team members met with resistance from a male subject who advised TRACY was not in the home. The subject lied to team members saying he was the occupant of the residence. Upon further investigation, entry was made into the home. A search was conducted by team members and TRACY was located hiding in an attic and was taken into custody.

On 10/25/2006 in the early morning hours, members of the FALCON III Task Force responded to a home on Jasper Road in Greene County to arrest Robert FARRIS on an indictment warrant charging him with multiple counts of sex crimes against children. FARRIS refused to answer the order of the task force officers on the scene to open the door and the decision was made to breach the door. Upon forcing the door open the task force members were met by FARRIS along with a highly aggressive dog which they believed were about to attack them. The dog received a taser application and FARRIS was taken into custody. FARRIS lives next door to a day care center.

Also while in Greene County, Task Force members went to the home of John MITCHELL, which he shares with his elderly father. Upon obtaining permission from the father to search the house for MITCHELL, task force members located MITCHELL hiding in an upstairs closet with his pit bull dog. Adjacent to the closet MITCHELL had attempted to conceal himself in, a fully loaded 9mm handgun and an extra magazine was located. Also located in the home was an illegal sawed off shotgun, a large amount of ammunition and illegal narcotics.

The supporting and participating agencies in the Miami Valley region included:

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Greene County Sheriff's Office, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Miami County Sheriff's Office, Champaign County Sheriff's Office, Dayton Police Department, Springfield Police Department, Ft. Loramie Police Department, Botkins Police Department, Trenton Police Department, Middletown Police Department, St. Paris Police Department, Ohio State Adult Parole Authority, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (Office of Inspector General), U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

PHOTOS/VIDEO AVAILABLE

The Marshals Service has photos of actual arrests during the Operation available to press at www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3, as well as fact sheets on arrests nationwide and in each of the participating districts. Dossiers on the "FALCON 15," describing 15 of the most significant cases closed during the Operation are available to media at the site.